

# Columbia Missourian

72nd Year — No. 181

Good Morning! It's Tuesday, April 15, 1980

14 Pages — 15 Cents

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
HITT & LOWRY ST.  
COLUMBIA, MO. 65201

## Fire destroys Stephens College Playhouse



By Wayne Byard and Rhonda Stearley  
Missourian staff writers

Fire destroyed the Stephens College Playhouse, 102 Dorsey St., Monday night as Columbia firemen found themselves battling flames, heavy smoke, exploding butane tanks, low water pressure, and students and faculty who darted into the flaming building to rescue valuable items.

The fire was reported at 10 p.m. by an anonymous phone call to a Stephens security officer. The officer phoned the Columbia Fire Department which sounded the first alarm and the second 15 minutes later. Two pump trucks responded initially, and they were joined by another and a hook-and-ladder as firemen surrounded the building.

Dense smoke engulfed a two-block area around the three-story, wood-frame playhouse as fire inside quickly spread to the roof and the Willis Avenue side of the building. Two wooden warehouses, the closest buildings to the playhouse, are located across an alley but were not threatened by the fire.

By 11:15 p.m., with the crowd of on-lookers numbering in the hundreds, Columbia Fire Chief Girard Wren declared the building a "total loss."

Smoke inside the converted warehouse was so thick it forced firemen with oxygen masks to vacate the building on several occasions to get air. At about 11 p.m., firemen evacuated the building as the fiery roof began to collapse.

It was not immediately clear if the building was occupied when the fire began, but stagehands had been striking the set of "The Tempest" earlier in the evening. The last performance of the play was at 2 p.m. Sunday.

Although firemen could not definite-

ly place the cause of the fire, Wren said someone had been working with a welding torch on the metal pieces of the play's set earlier in the evening. But Stephens instructor Bill West said all safety precautions had been taken with the welding.

As the blaze progressed, firemen not only had to fight the flames but had to deal with students and faculty who darted into the first floor office of the burning building to rescue valuable theater records and artifacts.

The rescuers managed to salvage more than 100 books and several file cabinets before they were chased out the windows by the advancing fire. The last man out, Stephens instructor Brett Prentiss, jumped into the waiting arms of four students.

Firemen on the south and west side of the building faced yet another problem with inadequate water pressure. One observer said it was "like trying to fight a major fire with a garden hose."

Still another hazard presented itself when two butane gas tanks in the attic exploded, sending flames 20 feet (6 meters) high into the cold night air and setting the stage for the roof's collapse.

Following signs of electrical sparks, firemen began cutting power cables on the Willis Avenue side of the playhouse about 11:20 p.m. as that side of the building took more of the fire's brunt.

Despite the intensity of the fire, there were no apparent injuries to firemen, according to the driver of one rescue vehicle.

However, the fire's psychological damage was obvious. "It's like seeing your life burn down," one Stephens student said, referring to the loss of invaluable memorabilia.

Stephens instructor Barry Frost said records, some 35 to 40 years old, were stored in the building.

Two firemen on a snorkel battle flames leaping from the roof of the Stephens College Playhouse Monday night

## Red Cross officials report hostages in good health

From our wire services

TEHRAN, Iran — A Swiss doctor and a Swiss Red Cross official spent eight hours interviewing the American embassy hostages here and said afterward that all seemed to be in generally good health, both physically and mentally.

"Under these very heavy psychological conditions, of course, they are not 100 percent," said Harald de Grueneck as he left the closely guarded embassy compound Monday night. "But I saw fit people, to whom I could talk normally. The general condition of the people is OK."

De Grueneck, the Tehran representative of the Geneva-based International Committee of the Red Cross, said he was certain that he had seen all the hostages who are in the embassy com-

pound. But, apparently keeping a promise to the Islamic militants who have held the Americans captive there for five months, he declined to say exactly how many people he had seen.

However, he said that he had made a complete list of their names, addresses and telephone numbers, and had gotten a personal written message from every single hostage he met to a relative or friend in the United States.

The Red Cross visit was the most comprehensive that any foreign visitor has been permitted to make to the embassy compound since it was seized on Nov. 4.

"If there was some problem — and they were only minor problems — they called specialists," said Dr. Bernard Liebeskind, the physician who went with de Grueneck to the compound. "They have good access to the doctor,

- The hostages "are not 100 percent," but generally are "OK."
- Japan gave backing to U.S. measures to punish Iran.
- West Germany is reported ready to impose economic sanctions.

who is coming every day here."

The reason the militants want to keep the precise number of hostages a secret remains a mystery. The State Department has said it believes the number to be 50, though it never has released a list.

De Grueneck confirmed that he had seen one hostage who is not known to have been seen by any of the other outsiders who have visited the compound since the takeover.

The two Swiss said they interviewed each of the hostages in rooms throughout the embassy in which each hostage

is normally held.

"As far as conditions of detention are concerned, a report will be done, and I will have some further talks with the students in order to improve what has to be improved," he said.

De Grueneck said he thought the hostages felt free to talk, despite the accompaniment of Iranian officials on the embassy tour, which is contrary to Red Cross standards.

"We accepted to do it because we believe that what we could do was very useful for the families, and we only

think of the families, in the states," he said.

Mansour Shamsa, an official of Iran's Red Lion and Sun Society (Red Cross) who accompanied the group, said the condition of all 50 hostages was good, but two older hostages appeared to be under stress. The two were not identified.

Moslem religious leader Hajjatoleslam Ali Khamenei, another member of the group, told Tehran Radio, "I must say that before coming here I did not think the condition of the hostages would be so good."

The Red Cross visit was promised by President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr in weekend talks with ambassadors of the nine-nation European Economic Community and Japan. The nations have been urged by the United States to join in economic sanctions against Iran.

Japan backed Washington's measures Monday to punish Iran and boycott the Moscow summer Olympics.

Japanese officials said its ambassador to Iran will be recalled temporarily for consultations about the hostage situation and U.S.-proposed sanctions.

Also, the nation's steel industry decided to refrain from concluding new steel export contracts with Iran in solidarity with Washington's call for economic sanctions.

Japan officials fear a cutoff of Iranian oil.

Australian and New Zealand officials adopted a more moderate, cautious approach to the U.S. proposals.

In Europe, Common Market leaders have begun urgent talks aimed at producing a united program in support of American policy on Iran well before the end of this month.

## Insight 5 years later the Quinlans are at peace

Karen Anne's folks  
start new program

By Peter J. Sampson  
United Press International

LANDING, N.J. — Five years after Karen Anne Quinlan slipped into a coma that sparked a worldwide debate over the rights of hopeless patients, her parents have found their peace.

On the anniversary of the day Karen last spoke — April 15, 1975 — Joe and Julia Quinlan are opening a new chapter in their lives. They will return to Newton Memorial Hospital, where their daughter first was treated, to start a hospice program, which would allow terminally ill patients to spend their final months in their own homes.

In an interview at their home, the Quinlans recalled the trying moments of the past five years, and details of the relationship they maintain with their 26-year-old comatose daughter, Karen Anne.

"We visit her daily in the (Morris View) nursing home," says Julia. "We talk to her. She has a radio in her room. We play recordings of her favorite songs. We pray for her. We treat her as you would any terminally ill patient who is unable to respond."

"And that's the most difficult part, that she can't respond. There's no communication," Julia laments. "But she is still alive."

Sitting next to his wife on their living room sofa, Joe said he visits Karen twice a day on his way to and from work at a nearby pharmaceutical firm.

He often combs Karen's hair, which is now cut short, and massages the back of her neck to relax the tension in (See QUINLANS, Page 11)



Dustin Hoffman  
Named best actor

## 'Kramer' tops Academy Awards

HOLLYWOOD (UPI) — "Kramer vs. Kramer" — an unflinching film of a divorce breaking and restructuring the love of a man, a woman and their small son — won the Academy Award Monday night for best picture of 1979. Best actor and actress Oscars went to Dustin Hoffman and Sally Field.

Hoffman, a respected veteran, was honored for his portrayal of a loving father in "Kramer," winning on his fourth nomination.

Miss Field won for her portrayal of a spunky Southern mill worker trying to mother her family and a struggling labor union in "Norma Rae."

Swiftly rising star Meryl Streep took the best supporting actress award for her portrait of an independent woman grieving at the loss of her young son in "Kramer," while veteran performer

Melvyn Douglas won the best supporting actor award.

Douglas, 79, who made his first movie 49 years ago and played suave, sophisticated leading men throughout the 1930s, was honored for his performance as a dying presidential crony in "Being There."

Hoffman, saying he refused to believe he beat such stars as Jack Lemmon, Al Pacino and Peter Sellers, recalled the days when he was an unknown and had "to practice accents while driving a taxicab."

Miss Field, with tears in her eyes, thanked everyone connected with her winning role and said, "I'm going to be the one to cry tonight."

"They said this couldn't be done," said the actress, long held back by her image as TV's "flying nun."

## Committee restores \$1.2 million to M.U. budget Senate had cut

By Diane Taylor  
State capital bureau

JEFFERSON CITY — A House-Senate negotiating committee has agreed to restore \$1.2 million to the University's budget, stricken earlier by the Senate.

The \$1.2 million comes in the form of federal grants previously used to fund health care programs at the four University campuses. University officials had asked for state funding in case federal money did not come through for next fiscal year.

The House earlier had granted the request before it was initially rejected by the Senate.

The conference committee's recommendation made Sunday also includes a 9.5 percent inflation raise for University employees that both chambers approved earlier.

Restoration of the \$1.2 million was the conference committee's only major change in the University's operating

budget. The University total stands at \$170.4 million under the compromise.

Sen. Edwin Dirck, D-St. Ann, who chairs the Senate's Appropriations Committee, said the overall \$350 million budget for all the state's colleges and universities was a compromise between the House and the Senate.

The Senate earlier had approved a \$170 million operating budget for the four University campuses, and the House had approved \$169 million for next fiscal year.

The conference committee decided to accept a funding level midway between the recommendations of the governor and the Coordinating Board for Higher Education. The coordinating board recommended \$353 million to operate Missouri colleges and universities. The governor sought \$347 million.

Spending levels for state universities are tentatively approved by the special House and Senate negotiating committee.

The list includes the amount recom-

mended by Gov. Joseph Teasdale, the amounts approved by the House and Senate and the level tentatively approved by the conference committee.

— University of Missouri (G) \$169.3 million, (H) \$169.3 million, (S) \$170.1 million, (C) \$170.4 million.

— Central Missouri State University (G) \$19.8 million, (H) \$19.8 million, (S) \$20.2 million, (C) \$20 million.

— Southeast Missouri State University (G) \$17.1 million, (H) \$17.1 million, (S) \$17.6 million, (C) \$17.3 million.

— Southwest Missouri State University (G) \$23.6 million, (H) \$23.6 million, (S) \$24.2 million, (C) \$23.9 million.

— Lincoln University (G) \$6.3 million, (H) \$6.3 million, (S) \$6.4 million, (C) \$6.3 million.

— Northeast Missouri State University (G) \$13.6 million, (H) \$13.6 million, (S) \$13.8 million, (C) \$13.7 million.

— Northwest Missouri State University (G) \$9.7 million, (H) \$9.7 million, (S) \$9.9 million, (C) \$9.8 million.

Douglas had been nominated for Oscars three times, and won the supporting actor Oscar in 1963 in "Hud."

Robert Benton won the director's Oscar — over Robert Fosse's widely praised and autobiographical "All That Jazz" — for "Kramer vs. Kramer" and then followed up with a second Oscar for the film's script, as the best screenplay adapted from another medium.

The best original screenplay award went to Steve Tesich, who drew on his youth in Bloomington, Ind., for "Breaking Away."

Mickey Rooney, 60, who has been nominated four times but holds only a special juvenile Oscar awarded him in 1938, leaned forward expectantly in his

(See DUSTIN, Page 11)

## Inside today Cape prep star to sign with M.U.

Ron Jones, a 6-foot-4 swingman who led Cape Girardeau Central to the 1979-80 Missouri 4A high school championship, will sign a letter-of-intent with Missouri Wednesday, says Central Coach Dan Milligan. Jones averaged 19 points and 13 rebounds per game last season while shooting 63 percent from the floor. See details on Page 6A.

## In town today

9 a.m. Boone County Court meets, County-City Building, fifth floor.  
7:30 p.m. Feminist concert, Meg Christian, Memorial Union Auditorium.

## Columbia gets record snowstorm

By JoAnn Lum  
and Renee Thompson  
Missourian staff writers

Columbia seldom sees snow in April, and it never has seen as much as it did Monday when more than 7 inches (18 centimeters) turned the green countryside white.

"This is the most snow ever received in April," a spokesman for the Nation-

National weather roundup, Page 11

al Weather Service at Columbia Regional Airport said. But, he added, Columbians need not despair because today should be sunny with temperatures in the mid-50 degrees F (14 C).

The Weather Service began keeping snowfall statistics for Columbia in 1890. Since then the previous record April snow was in 1938 when the city received 5.3 inches (15 centimeters). In recent years, the most was April 9, 1973, when 4.5 inches (11 centimeters) fell.

The snowstorm was caused by a low pressure disturbance that moved north from the Mississippi Gulf Coast, bringing cool moist air into the Columbia area.

Plants and flowers shouldn't be greatly affected by the snow, according to Ray Rothenberger, University professor of horticulture. He said the snow protects flowers by keeping in the warmth they receive from the soil. For this reason, they are better off than they would be if forced to bear cold weather without snow.

Despite the snowfall, business went on as usual in Columbia Monday. City schools experienced no drop in attendance, though tardiness was common. Some gasoline service stations received calls for servicing or towing, but the number was not reported to be exceptional.